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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1

#### ***AN ACT ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE REMEDIATION OF STATE-OWNED BROWNFIELDS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill imposes a March 1, 2015 deadline for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to begin evaluating and remediating three contaminated sites listed and prioritized for expedited remediation and redevelopment under the Urban Sites Remedial Action Program ("Urban Sites"). DEEP must evaluate and remediate these sites according to its property remediation standards.

The DEEP and Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioners must jointly select the sites for expedited evaluation and remediation by January 1, 2015. The commissioners must identify the appropriate uses for these sites in consultation with municipal officials, business leaders, and the residents of the municipalities where the sites are located.

The commissioners must select the sites from the lists they prepare under the Urban Sites Program for cleanup and reuse based on statutory criteria. One list, which the DECD commissioner prepares in consultation with the DEEP commissioner, consists of sites whose remediation could produce economic benefits. This list includes (1) state-acquired contaminated sites whose cleanup and redevelopment could produce significant economic benefits and (2) those in the 25 state-designated distressed municipalities or the 17 targeted investment communities (see BACKGROUND) that the state owns or whose future use it has the power to control (site control). The bill allows the DECD commissioner to include property in other municipalities if she determines their remediation and development benefits the region's or the state's economy.

The other list, which the DEEP and DECD commissioners jointly prepare, may include sites the state does not own or control and whose remediation could produce environmental and community benefits. These sites may be in targeted areas, which are distressed municipalities, targeted investment communities, enterprise corridor zones, or other areas the DECD commissioner designates. The bill does not open this list to sites outside these designated areas.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Property Eligible for Remediation under the Remedial Sites Program***

The property eligible for remediation under the Urban Sites Program must be located in a distressed municipality or targeted investment community. As Table 1 shows, some municipalities have multiple designations.

**Table 1: Designated Municipalities**

<b><i>Municipality</i></b>	<b><i>Distressed Municipality</i></b>	<b><i>Targeted Investment Community</i></b>	<b><i>Enterprise Corridor Zone Municipality</i></b>
Ansonia	X		X
Beacon Falls			X
Bridgeport	X	X	
Bristol	X	X	
Derby	X		X
East Hartford	X	X	
Enfield	X		
Griswold			X
Groton	X	X	
Hamden		X	
Hartford	X	X	
Killingly	X		X
Lisbon			X
Meriden	X	X	
Montville	X		
Middletown		X	
Naugatuck	X		X
New Britain	X	X	
New Haven	X	X	
New London	X	X	
North Canaan	X		
Norwalk		X	
Norwich		X	

Plainfield	X		X
Plymouth	X		
Putnam	X		X
Seymour			X
Southington		X	
Sprague	X		X
Stamford		X	
Sterling			X
Thompson			X
Torrington	X		X
Waterbury	X	X	
West Haven	X		
Winchester	X		X
Windham	X	X	

***Legislative History***

The Senate referred the original bill (File 366) to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that eliminates the maximum \$10 million state general obligation bond authorization for the Labor Department's Subsidized Training and Employment Program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

## Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/20/2014)

## Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 13 (04/22/2014)